

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

The undersigned respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction, as the search does not appear to present a serious burden. *See* MPEP § 811 (Noting that “[b]efore making a restriction requirement after the first action on the merits, the examiner will consider whether there will be a serious burden if restriction is not required”). Since there has already been an Office Action on the merits, a search and examination of the application does not present a serious burden. *See* MPEP § 803.

Still further, the undersigned submits that even if the restriction requirement is proper, 37 CFR § 1.141 provides that a reasonable number of species may nevertheless be claimed, and therefor searched, in one application. MPEP § 806.04(a).

The undersigned provisionally elects species 1, wherein claims 1-8, 12-17, and 21 are readable thereon.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees, or to credit any overpayments, to deposit account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 14, 2004

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. T. Grasso", is written over a horizontal line.

Fred T. Grasso
Reg. No. 43,644

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